

**WEB POSTING**

**July 30, 2015**

**NOTICE OF HIPAA BREACH**

Dear Clients:

We believe that acting responsible is an integral part of our commitment to delivering the best possible services to the clients of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH). The posting of this notice is part of that commitment and our obligation pursuant to County policy and the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. As such, we wish to inform you that on June 4, 2015, we became aware that an employee LACDMH inappropriately used their County issued computer to obtain protected health information (PHI). After we learned of this incident, we commenced an investigation, which is ongoing.

Based on this preliminary investigation, we believe personal information/PHI was inappropriately accessed by an individual employee. Information that may have been accessed include(s) name, phone number, address, date of birth, Social Security Number, Medi-Cal number, health insurance information, and dates of services. Currently, DMH and other County agencies are actively working with law enforcement in their investigation of any unlawful activities associated with this matter, including the wrongful access of your PHI. In addition, we are reviewing our procedures to ensure that our employees do not wrongfully access information that may contain PHI so that similar incidents do not occur in the future.

As a measure of added security, we encourage you to take steps to protect against identity theft. Federal law allows consumers one free credit report each year from each of the three (3) credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union. You have the option of requesting all three (3) reports at the same time or requesting them individually, at different times throughout the year. You are also encouraged to place a Fraud Alert with the national credit bureaus. National Credit Bureau Numbers:

- |              |                |                                                            |
|--------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| ➤ Equifax    | 1-866-349-5191 | <a href="http://www.equifax.com">www.equifax.com</a>       |
| ➤ Experian   | 1-888-397-3742 | <a href="http://www.experian.com">www.experian.com</a>     |
| ➤ TransUnion | 1-800-680-7289 | <a href="http://www.transunion.com">www.transunion.com</a> |

We sincerely apologize and regret that this situation occurred. LACDMH is committed to maintaining the privacy of our clients' information, and we take many precautions for the security and safeguarding of our clients' personal and health information. For questions or additional information, please contact us at our toll-free number, 1-855-700-8123.

Sincerely,

Judith L. Weigand, M.P.A., C.H.C.  
Compliance Officer